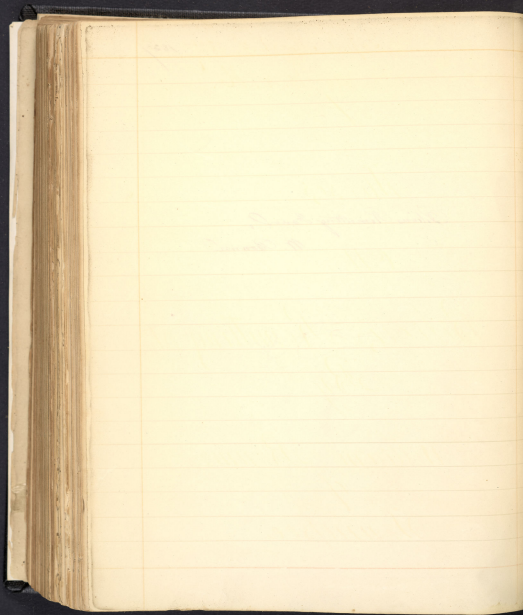


1827

Johns Remitting Bank,  
N. B. B. B.



Typed March 3 1827

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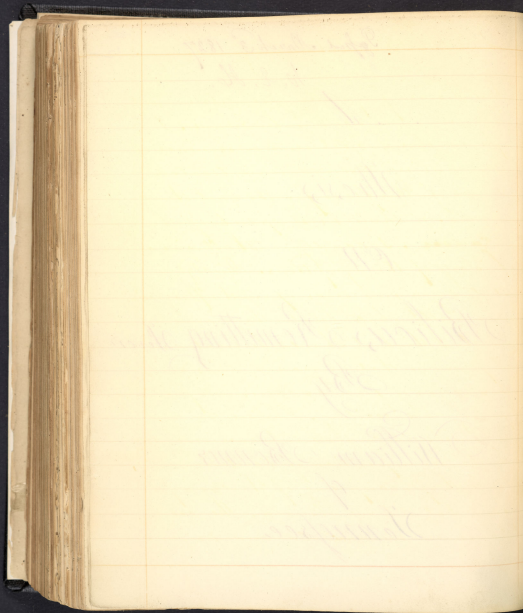
Bilious Remitting Fever

By

William Renner

of

Tennessee

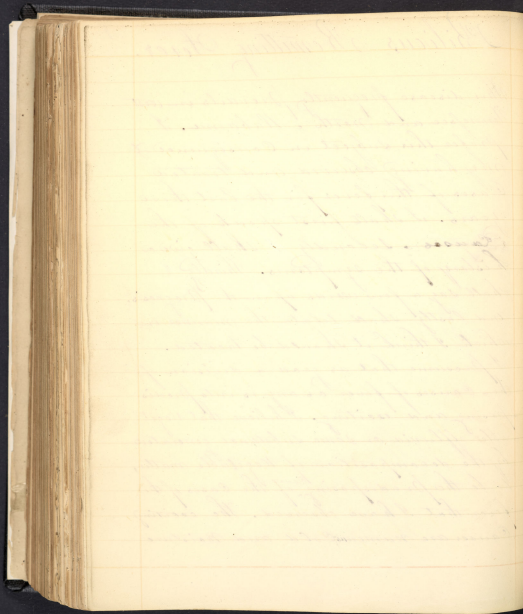




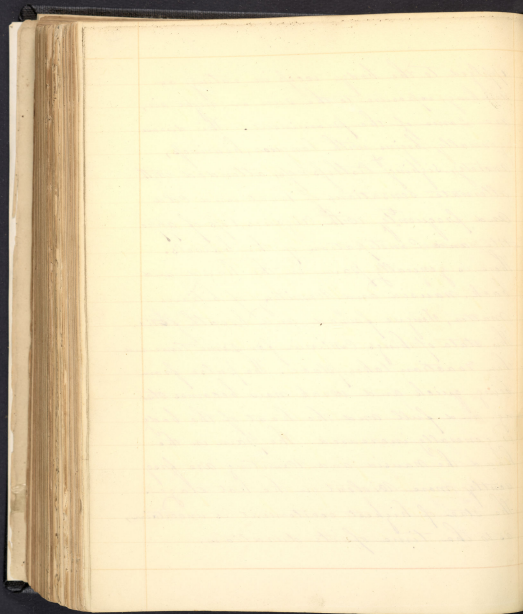
## Bilious Remitting Fever.

This disease frequently prevails in west Tennessee and north Alabama. I prefer this subject in consequence of my having observed and treated Cases of this fever for the last three years. I shall first speak of the ~~Causes~~, secondly I shall give a history of the symptoms; thirdly I shall say a few words upon the prognosis; and lastly I shall relate the manner in which I think it should be treated.

I presume that as good a division of the Causes of fever as any, is into predisposing and exciting. I believe that Vegetable effluvia or some substance generated by the decomposition of Vegetable matter, to be the predisposing <sup>cause</sup> of the Cases of this fever that I have observed. The exciting Causes are numerous Cold and Moisture



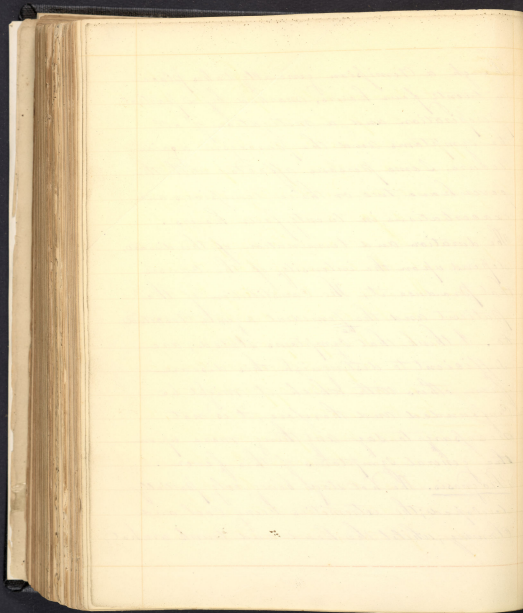
applied to the body, except in eating or  
 drinking, exposure to the sun or night air,  
 are some of the prominent. This disease  
 generally begins with languor, heaviness,  
 anxiety, sighing & restlessness, attended with  
 alternate sensations of heat and cold  
 and frequently with rigors, loss of appe-  
 tite and Constipation of the bowels.  
 There is generally pain in the head and  
 back, nausea and Vomiting of bilious  
 matter, Tongue furred and breath fetid.  
 This state of things continues for some time and  
 then reaction takes place. The pulse from  
 being quick and weak now becomes sto-  
 ring and full and the heat of the body  
 is generally increased. The pain in the  
 head the nausea and Vomiting are fre-  
 quently more violent in the hot stage.  
 The state of highest excitement is uncertain,  
 as to the time of its duration.



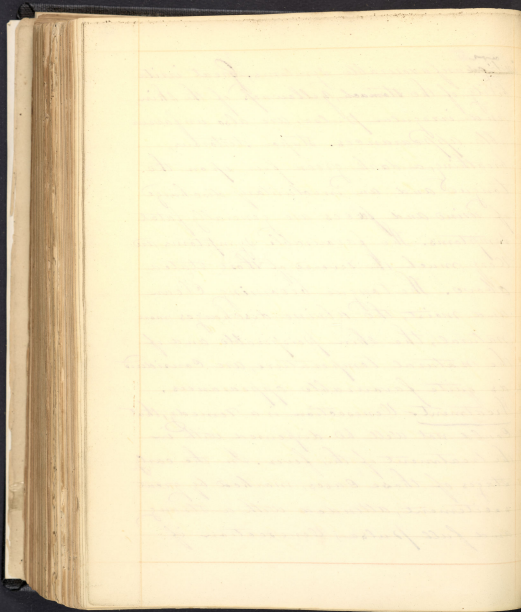
Though a Remission generally takes place in twenty four hours, marked by a partial perspiration and a mitigation of all the symptoms and the Paroxysm again returns. Some persons affected with this fever have two or three Remissions and exacerbations, in twenty four hours.

The duration and termination of this disease, depend upon the intensity of the Causes that produce it, the Constitution of the patient and the Remedial agents resorted to. I think that symptoms stated, are sufficient to distinguish this disease from others with which it might be confounded and therefore, it is not necessary to say anything more upon the general symptoms of this fever.

Prognosis. The hot stage being only partially developed; the extremities being cool and clammy, whilst the head and trunk are hot,



~~is~~ <sup>are</sup> unfavourable symptoms, Great irrita-  
 bility of the stomach, yellowness of the skin,  
 and irregular pulse, are also unfavour-  
 able appearances. Stupor stertorous,  
 breathing, a dark green fur upon the  
 tongue and an involuntary discharge  
 of urine and faeces are generally fatal  
 symptoms. The favourable symptoms are  
 very much the reverse of those stated  
 above. The tongue becoming clean  
 and moist, the alvine discharges more  
 natural, the skin perspirable and of  
 the natural temperature, are considered  
 as quite favourable appearances.  
Treatment - Venesection is a remedy, that  
 could not well be dispensed with in  
 the treatment of this fever. In the early  
 stages of these cases, marked by great  
 excitement, attended with a strong  
 and full pulse; Venesection if

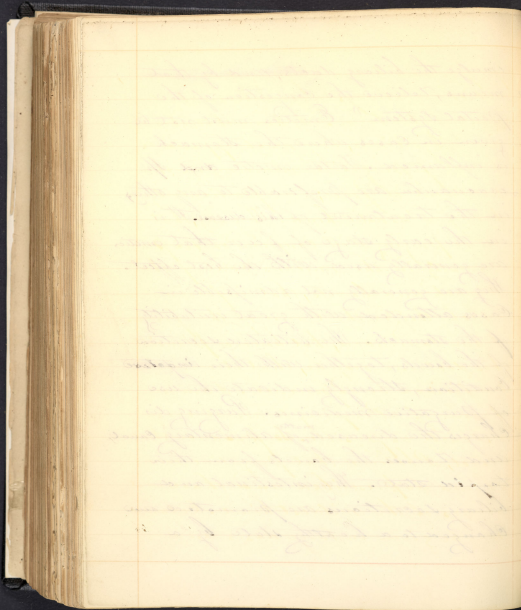




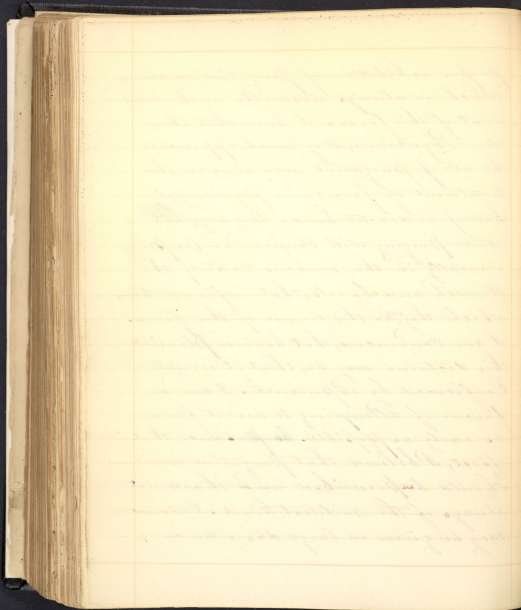
employed at the height of the hot stage  
 will frequently reduce the intolerable  
 heat of the system and relieve the  
 insupportable pain in the head. I believe  
 that when Venesection is resorted  
 to in such cases, it should be done  
 with a view of making an impression  
 upon the system, without any regard  
 to quantity; or in other words, that the  
 blood should continue to flow until  
 Syncope is produced. Emetics are gen-  
 erally useful in this fever. Doctor  
 Chapman says, that they not only  
 discharge the vitiated bile from the  
 stomach, but that "the powerful impres-  
 sion that they make upon that organ,  
 the diseased associations that are  
 going <sup>on</sup> throughout the whole system, are  
 subverted; and he further states, that  
 they determine to the surface of the body;

~~emerge the literary~~

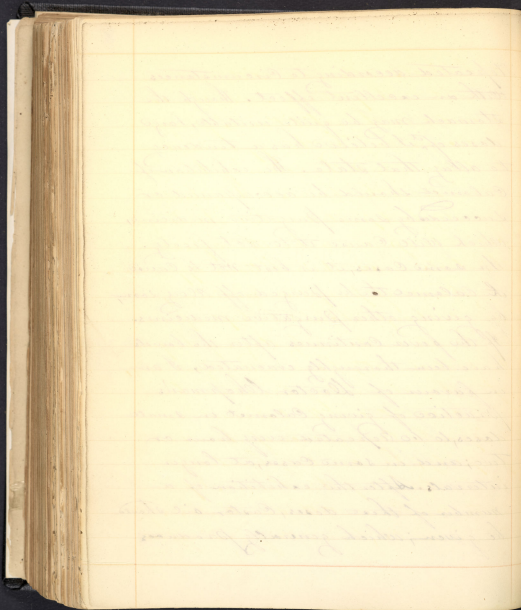
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emulge the biliary ducts, and by that means, relieve the Congestion of the portal system. Emetics must not be given in cases where the stomach is inflamed. Tartar emetic and Sp. coacuanha are preferable to any other in the treatment of this disease. It is in the early stage of fever that emetics are generally used, with the best effect. They are generally not admissible in cases attended with great irritability of the stomach. The irritated secretion of the bowels, together with their irritable condition, strongly indicate the use of purgative medicines. Purgings discharge the diseased <sup>matters</sup> of alimentary canal, and cause the bowels from their torpid state. The intestinal and biliary secretions are promoted and changed to a healthy state by a



proper exhibition of purgative medicines, which is always desirable in the treatment of this fever. I know that there are Physicians, very much opposed to the use of purgative medicines in the treatment of fever; and particularly those of a drastic kind. They say, that active purging will confirm or fix permanently in the mucous coat of the stomach and bowels, that inflammation which they <sup>say</sup> is the cause of the fever. I am convinced, that however plausible this doctrine may be, that it is not confirmed by experience. I am in favour of attempting to arrest fever as early as possible. ~~to produce~~ that effect, I believe that purgative medicines should be prescribed and those not always of the mildest kind. Calomel may be given in large doses and



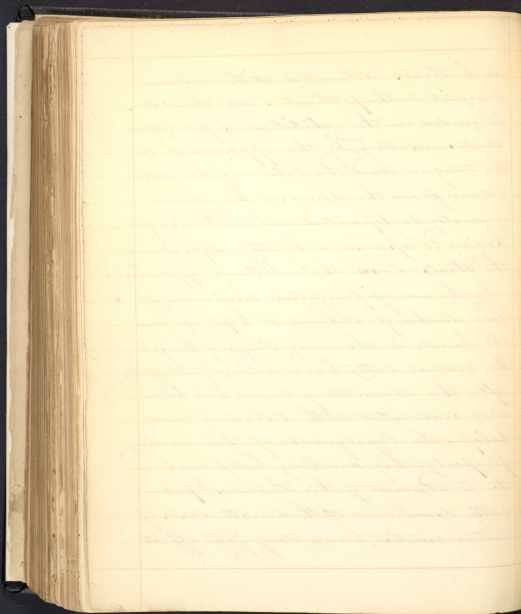
Repeated according to Circumstances  
 with an excellent effect. Though the  
 stomach may be quite irritable, large  
 doses of it <sup>is</sup> believed has a tendency  
 to allay that state. The exhibition of  
 Calomel should be accompanied or  
 succeeded by some purgative medicine,  
 which will cause it to act freely.  
 In some cases, it is best not to cause  
 the Calomel to be purged off very soon,  
 by giving other purgative medicines.  
 If the fever continues after the bowels  
 have been thoroughly evacuated, I am  
 in favour of Doctor Chapman's  
 practice of giving Calomel in small  
 doses, to be repeated every hour or  
 two; and in some cases, at longer  
 intervals. After the exhibition of a  
 number of these doses, Castor oil should  
 be given; which generally produces



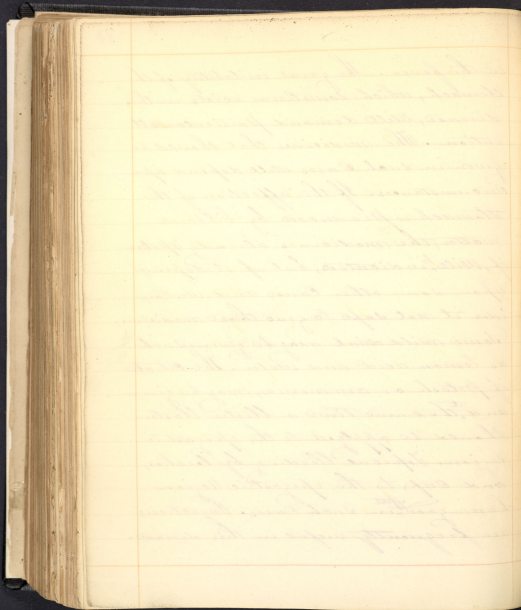


dark stools, attended with certain benefit to the patient. We should be guided in the exhibition of purgative medicines <sup>mostly</sup> by the appearance of the tongue and the colour of the evacuations from the bowels. They should generally be repeated until the tongue begins to assume a healthy aspect and the stools lose their bilious appearance.

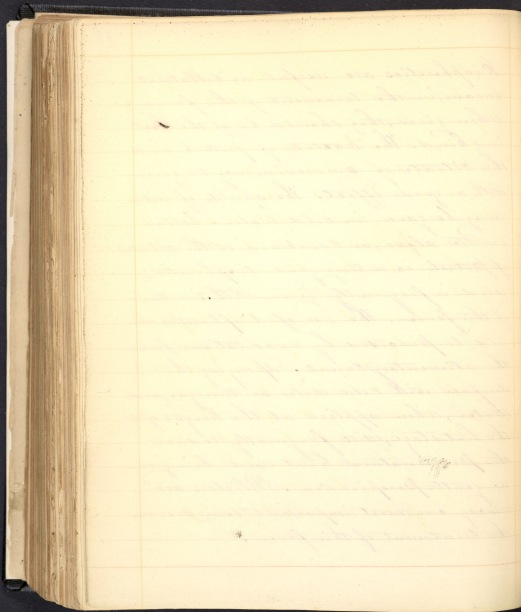
By the use of purgative medicines, a free discharge should be kept up from the bowels in the early stages of this fever. The neutral salts have a very good effect, after the alimentary canal has been well evacuated with Calomel and Jalap. In consequence of their cooling property, they are very beneficial in the treatment of this disease. Epsom salts combined with small doses of tartar emetic, have a very good effect.



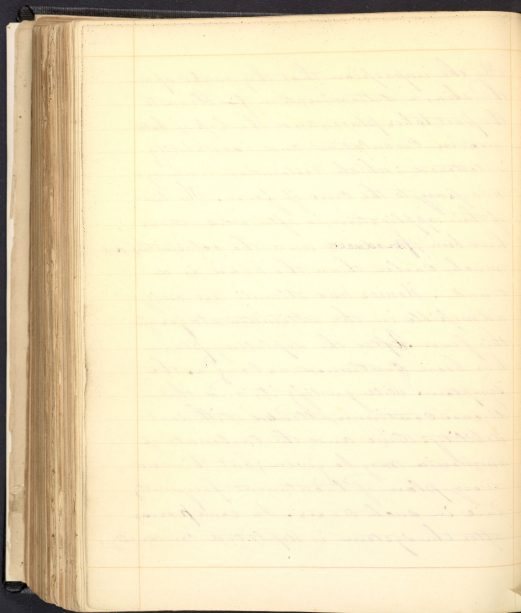
in this fever. The great irritability of the stomach, which sometimes exists in this disease, will demand particular attention. The medicines that should be given in such cases will depend upon circumstances. If the affection of the stomach is produced by bilious matter, the medicines already spoken of, will <sup>be</sup> indicated; but if it depend upon some other cause and we consider it not safe to give those medicines, some mild drink may be given, such as lemon acid and water. The citrate of potash or ammonia, may be given and, at the same time a blister blaster should be applied to the epigastric region. Topical bleeding by leeches, and cups to the epigastric region have a good <sup>effect</sup> in such cases. Injections are frequently useful in this disease.



Diaphoretics are useful as collateral  
 means, in the treatment of this fever.  
 When given, they should be of the cool-  
 ing kind. The acetate of potash and  
 the citrate of ammonia, may be given  
 with a good effect. The spirits of nitre  
 may be given, in cold water. Tartar  
 emetic alone, or combined with nitrate  
 of potash is a very good diaphoretic;  
 and is frequently given with this case  
 of this fever. The use of diaphoretics should  
 be preceded by evacuations from  
 the alimentary canal. Sponging the  
 surface with cold water or vinegar, and  
 water, when applied at the height of  
 the hot stage, will frequently reduce  
 the preternatural heat and bring on  
 a gentle perspiration. Blisters are  
 among our most important remedies in  
 the treatment of this fever.



By the impression that they make upon the skin, a determination of blood to the part takes place, and the loss of balance in circulation and excitability is restored: which restoration is always necessary to the cure of fever. The time of their application, is after evacuations have been produced and the extremities are much cooler than the head and trunk. Tonics and stimuli are only admissible in the ultimate stages of this fever. After the depleting plan has been continued as long as the symptoms will justify it, and the disease continues, attended with real debility: Wine and the carbonate of ammonia may be given; but this and every plan of treatment frequently fails in such cases. In some persons after the system is depleted considerably,





This disease assumes the intermittent type. In such cases, the Peruvian bark may be given, with benefit. A state of Rest should be prescribed and an abstraction of every thing that has a tendency to increase the febrile movement of the system. Persons affected with fever, may be permitted to drink freely of Cold Water, with the addition of Citric acid or Vinegar. Nourishment or diet should be very sparingly given and of the least stimulating kind; such as barley Water. In a state of Convalescence, the diet may be nourishing, but light and digestible; and should be taken in small quantities at a time. When a patient has sufficiently recovered, to be able to take exercise in the open air; he may be permitted to do so with advantage.

